

- 12 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mission cartridge comprising:

a) a memory unit; and

b) a connector element functionally associated with said memory unit

wherein stored in said memory unit is at least one of the information from the group consisting of flight data, mission data, operation flight program (OFP), or OFP updates.

2. The mission cartridge of claim 1 wherein said memory unit includes flash-based data storage.

3. The mission cartridge of claim 1 wherein on an outer surface of said memory unit is a labeling area.

4. A weapon comprising:

a) a weapon body having a payload and an on-board computer, said on-board computer functionally associated with a first connector element;

b) a mission cartridge having a memory unit for storing information and a second connector element, said second connector element configured to mate with said first connector element, said second connector element functionally associated with said memory unit; and

c) a mission loader having a memory unit writer for storing information in said memory unit and a third connector element, said third connector element configured to reversibly mate with said second connector element, said third connector element functionally associated with said memory unit writer

- 13 -

wherein when said first connector element and said second connector element are mated, said on-board computer and said memory unit are functionally associated; and wherein when said third connector element and said second connector element are mated, said mission loader and said memory unit are functionally associated.

5. The weapon of claim 4 further comprising information selected from the group consisting of mission data, operation flight program (OFP), or OFP updates, wherein said information is stored in at least one of the locations selected from the group consisting of said on-board computer and said memory unit.

6. The mission cartridge of claim 4 wherein said memory unit includes flash-based data storage.

7. The weapon of claim 4 wherein said on-board computer is further configured to record data onto said mission cartridge.

8. The weapon of claim 7 wherein said mission loader is configured to read said recorded flight data from said mission cartridge.

9. A method for attacking a target comprising:

- a) providing a weapon of claim 5;
- b) mating said second connector element with said third connector element;
- c) storing information in said memory unit using said memory unit writer;
- d) detaching said second connector element from said third connector element;
- e) mating said second connector element with said first connector element; and
- f) using said information stored in said memory unit to attack the target.